

**Public Minutes**  
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**  
**March 17, 2015**

The March meeting of the Board of Registration for Medical Technicians (Board) was held on March 17, 2015, 121 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH. Attending and eligible to vote were Cynthia Gray, R.N., Chairman, William L. Clutterbuck, M.D., and Arthur Yan, M.D. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

Minutes: Review & approve minutes of February 3, 2015

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Motion made by William L. Clutterbuck, M.D. and second by Arthur Yan, M.D., by unanimous vote of the Board, minutes were approved.

Charles E. Albee, DMD – President, Board of Dental Examiners appeared before the Board to discuss the role of a Dental Assistant. Dr. Albee's comments are attached as part of the minutes.

Paul G. Sanderson, Esq., Administrative Rules Coordinator – discussion on rule writing. RSA 328-I:1, VI – definition of Medical Technicians (rules). Drug Abuse – use; convicted or impaired.

Board Action: February 3, 2015 – Paul G. Sanderson, Esq., was unavailable to attend meeting. Board discussed the rulemaking process.

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Paul G. Sanderson, Esq., discussed registration of Medical Technicians procedures with the Board. Decision was made to have Paul attend all future Board Meetings until rules are drafted.

List of potential registrants

Board Action: February 3, 2015 – Decision on who should and who should not be registered by the Board. Discussion on broad statement on the requirements for registration as a Medical Technician. Question on Dental Assistants, Board of invite Charles E. Albee, DMD to the March meeting.

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Tabled for further review at the April meeting.

Amendment to HB 326 AN ACT relative to the membership of the board of registration of medical technicians.

Board Action: February 3, 2015 – Amendment draft sent to Representative Thomas Sherman for consideration.

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Jean to keep her eye on the legislation.

Mission Statement

Board Action: February 3, 2015 – Jean to draft Mission Statement for Board review. Draft will be on the March 17, 2015 meeting for further review and adoption.

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Mission Statement approved

“Mission Statement: The Board of Registration for Medical Technicians is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the proper registration of medical technicians in New Hampshire by way of objective enforcement of RSA 328-I and the Board's Administrative Rules.”

Board requested Jean to e-mail Steve Langan, Honor Form, requesting information on Nebraska Outbreak; National Drug Registry; how many hospital workers have been found guilty of drug diversion; what was the occupation of the staff person who was found guilty, range of people who have been found guilty, and is there a White Paper on the subject.

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Board further discuss at the April meeting.

E-Mail from Brandy Cusson

Board Action: March 17, 2015 – Jean to acknowledge

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Next meeting: April 7, 2015 – 9:00 A.M.

# Board of Registration for Medical Technicians

Introduction: Dr. Charles Albee and Constance Stratton

The first that I, or any of the members of the Board of Dental Examiners heard of this newly created Board was when I received an invitation from Jean Barnes to address you to discuss the inclusion of Dental Assistants in your registry.

To be frank with you, I am a bit dismayed that when your Board was conceived and Dental Assistants were included, my Board was neither consulted nor had representation on your Board. I am keenly aware that you had nothing to do with that.

Connie has informed me that whereas the enabling legislation has gone into effect as of October 2014, our dental assistants have no choice but to be registered by you.

Connie and I are here today to educate you about what dental assistants do, how they are currently supervised and what the Board of Dental Examiners would ultimately like.

I know that you are familiar with the definition of medical technician as put forth in your enabling legislation and dental assistants certain qualify.

"Medical technician" means a health care worker who is not licensed or registered by a New Hampshire regulatory board and who assists licensed health care professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. For the purposes of this chapter, medical technicians shall be limited to health care workers with access to controlled substances and with access to or contact with patients in a health care facility or in a medical establishment."

- Dental Assistants are not currently licensed or registered by a regulatory board.
- Dental Assistants do assist with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.
- Dental Assistants do have access to controlled substances.
- Dental Assistants do have access to or contact with patients.

Dental Assistants are not Dental Hygienists. Though our Administrative Rules do allow Dental Hygienists to function as Dental Assistants, the two are very different. Dental Hygienist treat patients independently under a variety of types of supervision depending on the work environment.

Dental Assistants work hand in hand with Dentists and sometimes with Dental Hygienists. They are defined in our Administrative Rules: *"Dental assistant" means any person who assists the dentist in carrying out the clinical duties of a dental office."*

Dental Assistants work under the supervision of a licensed dentist, General or Direct.

1. "General supervision" means a dentist with an active license has authorized the procedures, and the procedures are being carried out in accordance with their diagnosis and treatment plan, and the procedures will be personally evaluated and reviewed by the dentist with the patient at least once in a 12 month period.
2. "Direct supervision" means a dentist with an active license is in the dental office, personally authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office while the procedures are being performed and before dismissal of the patient evaluates the performance of dental assistant.

General supervision duties are those tasks that do not directly involve patients such as infection control duties and treatment room set-up. Direct supervision is more hands on with the patients such as instrument facilitating and impression taking.

Dental Assistants are “regulated” under the license of a dentist. If a dental assistant is practicing outside the duties allowed in our Dental Administrative Rules and our Board becomes aware of it, we would potentially discipline the dentist. Because we do not license or register Dental Assistants, we do not have jurisdiction over them.

There are a variety of types of dental assistants:

1. On the job trained Dental Assistant who have limited responsibilities.
2. Certified Dental Assistants – these assistants have been certified by the Dental Assistants National Board or DANB. They have a slightly greater scope of practice.
3. Graduated Dental Assistants – They have completed a formal training program that has been certified by the Commission on Dental Accreditation or CODA and have expanded responsibilities.
4. We have Dental Assistants that have undergone specialty training in specific aspects of dentistry such as orthodontics, pit and fissure sealants and coronal polishing.
5. And lastly, our newest Dental Assistants – Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries or EFDAs, who can fill and carve a dental restoration after the dentist has prepared the tooth.

I have personally researched how our sister New England States oversee Dental Assistants. Historically all have utilized the same methods that we do. For many years, Vermont has registered Dental Assistants, Massachusetts has recently begun registering Dental Assistants while Rhode Island and Maine are in negotiations to establish rules for registering them. None of these states register dental assistants outside the auspices of their Dental Boards.

Extrapolating from the Vermont and Massachusetts numbers of Dental Assistants, we would anticipate that 1500 to 2000 Dental Assistants would have to be registered. Finding out who and where they are would be a daunting task, for you and even our Board.

Dentistry is still very much a cottage industry. We tend to work in our isolated offices unlike our physician colleagues who work closely in the hospital setting. We, in dentistry, are very protective of our TEAM... the Dentist, the Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants and our clerical personnel all work hand in hand to provide quality dental health services. My Board believes that registering our Dental Assistants with a “foreign” Board would adversely affect our “team” dynamic.

Though at this juncture we understand that you have no choice but to register our Dental Assistants, my Board wants you to know that we have been seriously discussing the registration of Dental Assistants and will be accelerating the process to be able to register and directly regulate them. It will be a major undertaking for us, there will be complicated Administrative Rules to be written relative to duties, supervision, fees, continuing education, etc.

Whereas you have little or no knowledge of “the world of Dental Assistants”, we hope that you have no interest in creating rules and regulation for them and will work with my Board in eventually amicably divorcing dental assistants from your Board.

Charles E. Albee, DMD - President  
New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners